

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/867,470

Examiner

Dustin Nguyen

Applicant(s)

YOKOKURA, HIDENORI

Art Unit

2154

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 01/05/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 12, 15-18, 20 and 21 now renumbered as 1-7.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.


NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicants' attorney, Mr. Leonard Diana, on 03/15/2007.

Please amend claims 12-14, 16, 19-21 as follows:

12. (Currently Amended): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restricting device adapted to restrict access to the network-connectable apparatus by another apparatus in accordance with a status of the network-connectable apparatus;

a detecting device adapted to detect whether a request from the other apparatus is a request for inquiry about update of a file;

a discrimination device adapted to discriminate, based on detection by said detecting device, whether a file corresponding to a file cached by the other apparatus has been updated, wherein said discrimination device makes its discrimination in accordance with time information included in the request; and

a sending device adapted, in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted by said restricting device selectively to send

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information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the other apparatus, or to send the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and,

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted by said restricting device, to send information representing that the access is rejected to the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated, wherein the information representing the access-rejection is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restricting device adapted to restrict access by another apparatus in accordance with a status of the network connectable apparatus;

a detection device adapted to detect time information related to a file possessed by the other apparatus;

a discrimination device adapted to discriminate whether information a file corresponding to a file cached by the other apparatus has been updated, in accordance with time information detected by said detection device; and

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a sending device adapted, in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted by said restricting device, selectively to send information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the other apparatus, or to send the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and,

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted by said restricting device, to send information representing that the access is rejected to the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated, wherein the information representing access-restriction is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restriction step of restricting access to the network-connectable apparatus by another apparatus in accordance with a status of the network-connectable apparatus;

a detecting step of detecting whether the a request from the other apparatus is a request for inquiry about update of a file;

a discrimination step of discriminating whether a file corresponding to a file cached by the other apparatus has been updated, in accordance with the detection in said detecting step,

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wherein said discrimination step makes its discrimination in accordance with time information included in the request; and

a sending step of, in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted, selectively sending information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the other apparatus, or sending the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination in said discrimination step, and,

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted, sending information representing that the access is rejected to the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated, wherein the information representing the access-restriction is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

21. (Currently Amended): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restricting step of restricting access by another apparatus in accordance with a status of the network-connectable apparatus;

a detection step of detecting time information related to a file possessed by the other apparatus;

a discrimination step of discriminating whether a file corresponding to a file cached by the other apparatus has been updated, in accordance with time information detected in said detection step; and

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a sending step of, in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted, selectively sending information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the other apparatus, or sending the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination in said discrimination step, and,

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted, sending information representing that the access is rejected to the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated, wherein the information representing the access-rejection is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

This communication warrants no examiner's reason for allowance, as applicant's reply makes evident the reason for allowance, satisfying the record as whole as required by rule 37 CFR 1.104(e). In this case, the substance of applicant's remarks in the Amendment filed on 01/05/2007 with respect to the amended claim limitations and further amended claim limitations in the Examiner's amendment point out the claims are patentable over the prior art of record. Thus, the reason for allowance is in all probability evident from the record and no statement for examiner's reason for allowance is necessary (see MPEP 13202.14).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dustin Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-3971. The examiner can normally be reached on flex schedule.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Dustin Nguyen
Examiner
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